JOHN ENGLISHMAN,

In Defence of the Engliſh Conſtitution.

Saturday, June 14, 1755. Number VIII.

To John Engliſhman, *Eſq*;

SIR,

THE very abuſive Treatment that both the Living and the Dead meet with from a Set of *notorious Bigots* among us, occaſioned the following Piece, which aſks a Birth in your Paper.

De vivis nil niſi verum; de mortuis nil niſi bonum.
Adag.

We ſhould ſay nothing but Truth of the Living, and nothing but Good of the Dead.

OF all the iniquitous Papers publiſhed by the Authors of the Watch-Tower, there are none that ought to be treated with more Abhorrence than thoſe, wherein they endeavour to aſperſe and vilify the Memories of their Superiors, that are now at reſt in the ſilent Grave. Among all Nations it has been accounted Infamous to ſpeak ill of the Dead, and thoſe that dared to do it, were juſtly eſteemed cruel and barbarous; and as ſuch deteſted by Mankind: For what can betray more a wicked and malicious Heart, than to take a Pleaſure in raking among the Aſhes of the Dead in order to find Matter for Scandal, and Employment for an invenomed Pen? How infamous eſpecially is it in a Chriſtian (who as ſuch ought rather to draw a kind of Veil over the Faults of his Brethren, and eſpecially the Rulers of the People, than to expoſe and aggravate, and odiouſly miſrepreſent them) to delight in wounding the Characters of thoſe who are not preſent to anſwer for themſelves; whoſe Conduct, however blameable it may now appear, we ought charitably to ſuppoſe appeared Juſt and Right to them. *Speak not Evil one of another, Brethren*,---was a Precept enjoined by a great Apoſtle, and ought to be daily thought of by all Mankind. But, alas! how is this great, this noble Precept publickly violated in Print every Week, by a Set of Writers, whoſe Acrimony and Fierceneſs (eſpecially againſt the Church of *England*, which is indeed one half of the *Engliſh* Conſtitution) are without Bounds or Controul. Clergy and Laity alive and dead are conſtantly and wickedly traduced by their Pens. For the Truth of this Aſſertion, let any one but caſt his Eyes upon the Pieces publiſhed of late in this my native City, (Pieces void of all Charity, and full of a moſt unchriſtian Bitterneſs, to the Grief of every honeſt and good Man among us) under the aſſuming, and arrogant Titles of the *Independent Reflector*, and *Watch-Tower*; and he will there find that the moſt worthy and deſerving are treated in the moſt baſe and cruel Manner.---There he will find Divines, ſome living, and ſome long ſince at reſt, made to ſay Things they never meant,--their Meaning ſcandalouſly perverted, and their Memories loaded with Ignominy, (particularly in the Preface to the *Independent Reflector*).--There he will alſo find Magiſtrates, alive and dead treated with the higheſt Rudeneſs and Injuſtice, in order to make them appear little and contemptible, and their Memories odious in the Eyes of the Vulgar. The Occaſion of this Treatment, it is well known to the Publick, was, becauſe a Number of Gentlemen diſtinguiſhable for their Weight, Fortune, and Influence in the City, had laudably agreed to uſe their Endeavours to have a Seminary of Learning erected among us, and had, after mature Conſideration, agreed upon a truly Catholick Scheme which they in their Conſciences thought would beſt promote, and bring to Maturity their good Intention, and be moſt conducive to the Proſperity of their Country, and the Cauſe of true Religion. This laudable and glorious Deſign has been greatly impeded, tho' (Thanks to Heaven!) far, very far from being defeated by theſe troubleſome Writers, whoſe Pride, Ambition, and Self-Sufficiency were ſo great as to buoy them up with the Expectation of having the chief Hand in the Management of the College.

Finding themſelves diſappointed, after ſaying all the ill-natured Things they could deviſe of the worthy Gentlemen who oppoſed their mad Meaſures, and having almoſt exhauſted their Venom upon the Living, they have at Length attacked the Dead. They begin with Governor FLETCHER, whoſe Adminiſtration they brand with the odious Epithet of *Tyrannical*, whoſe Principles they ſet forth as replete with *Bigotry*, &c. In order to make good their Charge, they quote a Part of one of his Speeches to his Aſſembly, but how little it is to their Purpoſe, will abundantly appear by inſerting of it here. His Words are theſe, "I re-"commended to the former Aſſembly, the ſettling of "an able Miniſtry, that the Worſhip of God may be "obſerved among us, for I find that great and firſt "Duty much neglected. Let us not forget that there "is a God that made us, and who will protect us if "we ſerve him." *&c.* This is *Bigotry*, forſooth! *arrant Bigotry!* for a Governor to expreſs a laudable Zeal for the publick Worſhip of the God that made us, and who will protect thoſe that ſerve him! This it ſeems is not to be born with. Does not this too plainly ſhew thoſe Diſturbers of the Dead, as well as the Living, to be what has long been ſhrewdly ſuſpected, that is, Enemies to true Religion. Mr. FLETCHER's Reaſon for deſiring the Aſſembly to ſettle a Miniſtry, was not, I am well aſſured, from "a "Belief that the Worſhip of God was not duly admi-"niſtred in the Dutch, and other proteſtant Churches," as the Watch-Tower would inſinuate; but upon the Want

Want of an Engliſh Church, wherein the eſtabliſhed Liturgy of the Church of *England* would be made uſe of; in the Uſe of which, he, and Numbers of the Inhabitants even at that Time were brought up, and in which they had a Right to be indulged, eſpecially as they did not underſtand the Dutch Language. The Aſſembly, after mature Deliberation, were pleaſed to join with the Governor, and erected ſeveral Pariſhes, and by a Law taxed the Inhabitants of the ſaid Pariſhes a very ſmall Annuity to be paid to the ſeveral Miniſters, who they intended ſhould be Miniſters of the Eſtabliſhed Church of *England*, as is very plain from the Watch-Tower's own Maxim, which implies, that Facts contemporary with Laws do beſt explain their Meaning, Epiſcopal Miniſters being immediately placed in each Pariſh, and none others thought on; and from the Explanatory Act, which has been lately ſo meanly quibbled at and miſrepreſented. Nor could Religion be ſupported any other Way in thoſe Places, nor even by this Proviſion, without the further charitable Aſſiſtance of the Society for the Propagation of the Goſpel. This pious Proceeding of the good Governor FLETCHER is, it ſeems, ſufficient Provocation to theſe Bouteſeus to male-treat him at this Time, and to load him with the Ignominy of acting *tyrannically*, and being a notorious *Bigot*. In another of his Speeches to his Aſſembly, he ſays, "That it was his "endeavour to lead a virtuous and pious Life among "them, and to give them a good Example." And that he really did ſo, if I may believe my Anceſtors, and other People of Credit and Reputation, is fact. And yet the Memory of this good Man is now, after the Expiration of Sixty Years, *villified* and cruelly treated by a Set of Youths, whoſe Knowledge is but of Yeſterday. Unfair, Unchriſtian, Ungentleman-like, as well as inhuman Treatment this!

The next Governor they chuſe to load with their darling Epithets of *Bigot* and *Tyrant*, is My Lord CORNBURY, whoſe Tyranny by their Account exceeded even *Fletcher*'s, as they rudely call him. This noble Lord is treated as if he had been the moſt infamous of Mankind; as one well verſed in Hypocriſy, Diſſimulation, and every diabolical Art. And for what? Why, becauſe he thought it his Duty (as indeed it was, by his and all Governor's Inſtructions) to countenance, protect, and promote the Church of *England* as eſtabliſhed throughout the Nation. That My Lord CORNBURY might in ſome Things Act with too high a Hand, is very poſſible; but that he acted in ſo baſe a Manner as Mr. Watch-Tower repreſents, I cannot believe; for who I pray will ever again pay any Regard to what he ſays, after ſo many abſolute Falſhoods and Miſrepreſentations, as he has been publickly convicted of, and not attempted, though often called upon, to vindicate. If poor *John Engliſhman* deſerved to be *ſuſpended* for making uſe of a Word, which the ſagacious Heads of the Watch-Tower could not find in a plain Act of Parliament, how much more do they deſerve an Elevation in the Air, who have detected guilty of Falſhoods and notorious Miſrepreſentations. But ſuppoſe the worſt; can any Thing be more wicked and abuſive than, from the Miſconduct of one or two Individuals, to endeavour to raiſe all the Odium and Malice poſſible againſt a whole Church, that has been always allow'd to be the chief Support and Bulwark of the Reformation; and at this Time of Day too, after near Seventy Years that that very Church has continued a moſt kind Indulgence and Tolleration to the Diſſenters? Suppoſe the Story of *Makimie* true, which in ſome Things is much to be doubted, with Regard to Lord CORNBURY, and he acted by a perſecuting Spirit; yet were not the Lawyers who pleaded his Cauſe, and many of the Jury of the Church of *England*, who acquitted him? What then can theſe Scribblers mean by ſuch a Management, but to do the Work of the Enemy of Mankind, and to prove themſelves ſuch as *the Lord hates*, by ſowing *Diſcord among Brethren?* And I hope my Countrymen and Fellow Citizens, who I thank God ſeem every Day more and more to deſpiſe thoſe Scribblers, that they will at all Times bear publick Teſtimony againſt them, and carefully guard againſt their vile Arts, and Endeavours to promote Diſcord, Enmity, and Uncharitableneſs; nay, down-right Malice and Bitterneſs among their Fellow-Citizens.

I am, Sir, yours,

PHILO-PATRIS.

Advertiſement.

JOHN ENGLISHMAN *in due Time will take proper Notice of the notorious fallacious Reaſoning of the* Watch-Tower, *in his arethmetical Calculations about Miniſters Salaries, in his laſt Paper.*

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